



The Ambassador

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December 4, 2008

President Lech Wałęsa
Instytut Lecha Wałęsy
Al. Jerozolimskie 11/19
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Dear President Wałęsa:

Please accept my warm congratulations on behalf of the American people and the Government of the United States of America on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of your being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

As I noted in my public message for your 65th birthday in September, "Lech Walesa" is a name that is synonymous with freedom and democracy throughout the world. Your name has joined a select few Polish heroes such as Kościuszko, Pułaski, and Pope John Paul II in becoming a household word in America, as well as in the rest of the world.

History will forever note your role in bringing about the peaceful end of the Cold War. For Americans, no one did more than Pope John Paul II and Lech Walesa to put a human face on the otherwise seemingly abstract and distant struggle for freedom taking place across Central and Eastern Europe in the 1980s. Poland is justifiably proud of you, one of the giants of contemporary history.

As U.S. Ambassador to Poland, it has been an honor and a privilege to have met with you on several occasions over the past four years. I regret that my other obligations have prevented me from joining you in Gdańsk for the formal celebration of the 25th anniversary of your Nobel Peace Prize. I wish you all the best on this occasion.

Sincerely yours,

Victor Ashe